THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) While no directive has been issued for making the assessment of colleges and universities mandatory, this Ministry is working out the modalities for increasing enrolment in higher education upto 15 per cent by the end of the Eleventh Plan period. Subject to finalization of the Eleventh Plan, it is proposed to expand the capacity of existing institutions, as well as to establish new institutions to address issues of access, quality and equity in higher education.

Bill for foreign education providers

760. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are proposing a Bill to open up the country's education sector to foreign education providers;

(b) if so, whether Government had any consultations with stakeholders in the country's educational system such as students' organizations, organizations representing the teaching community, etc.;

(c) if so, the outcome of such consultations; and

(d) if not, whether Government would consider to undertake the consultation process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The present policy of the Government permits Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) upto 100% on the automatic route in the education sector. A legislative proposal on entry and operations of foreign educational institutions in the country is under consideration of the Government. The matter relating to entry of foreign universities in India was discussed at a Conference of State Ministers of Higher and Technical Education, held at Bangalore on January 10-11, 2005. The matter was also considered by a Committee of Experts constituted under the Chairmanship of Prof. C.N.R. Rao. The All India Federation of University and College Teachers' Organisation (AIFUCTO) has been opposing entry of foreign educational providers under GATS and privatization and commercialization of education.

Vocationalisation of secondary education

761. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:
SHRI KESHUBHAI S. PATEL:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether vocationalisation of secondary education is a centrally sponsored scheme;

(b) whether the scheme is also being implemented by the Gujarat Government;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have not released the amount of Rs. 4.67 crore, as part of the grant under the scheme;